

**NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION**  
**THE GENERAL COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a Meeting**  
**Held at the Pavilion, Bisley**  
**On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2011 from 2.00pm**

**Present:**

**Vice Chairman:** Prof AR Horrocks

**Members:** Mr G Alexander  
Mr HRM Bailie  
Mr GV Barnard  
Mrs ID Bennett  
Mr JPS Bloomfield  
Mr CM Brooks  
Wg Cdr DP Calvert  
Dr A Cargill Thompson  
Mr JH Carmichael  
Lt Col ARK Clayton  
Mr PR Coley  
Mr MG Farnan  
Mr CN Farr  
Maj SB Fraser  
Wg Cdr CJ Hockley  
Mr GAE Larcombe  
Mr CC Mallett  
Mr MF Martel  
Mr K Nash  
Flt Lt IW Robertson  
Mrs KD Robertson  
Mr AJD Saunders  
Miss J Scrimshaw  
Mr IW Shirra Gibb  
Mr MP Watkins  
Mr DD Watt  
Mr RHF Wills  
Mr DG Young

**In attendance:**

Mr GWJ Alger	-	Secretary
Mr B Thomas	-	Assistant Director of Shooting
Mr S Wallis	-	Representing John Watson BSRC
Mrs HL Webb	-	Membership Secretary

**Apologies for absence:** Mr MJ Black, Mr MJ Ensor, Mr DGF Evans, Mr EJ Gardener, Mr G Gold, Mr PH Hobson, Mr J Horton, P Hunter, Mr JM Kynoch, Cdr MJC Magan, Col WJ O'Leary, Mr M Maksimovic, C Murton, Dr R Pizer, Mr R Pooley, Mr JC Ragg, Brig JR Smales,

Mr JES Staples, Sqn Ldr P Upham, Mr JD Warburton, Mr James Watson, Mr John Watson, Mr WDC Wilcox, Mr MJ Wood.

### **VICE CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**

Members at the meeting felt the date of the meeting has been well publicised in advance and the Council and NSC Board should be better represented at the General Council Meeting. Furthermore, their non-attendance today was not satisfactory in that the General Council were not able to hold them to account.

### **G237 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 10<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010 (G223)**

The Minutes of the General Council meeting of the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2010 were received and agreed.

#### **Matters arising:**

G223: (G208) (S303) - Chamber Check Procedure – *had been discussed at the Shooting Committee and John Bloomfield was asked to put a proposal to the May Meeting of the Committee* – John Bloomfield. **Action Continues**

G227a: Level of MoD Range Use - Glynn Alger. GA informed the meeting that a circulation had been made to all the clubs but to date the only response that had resulted in any action was in the NE where the Regional Rep. had reported potential difficulties. Discussions with DTE and Landmarc indicate that if there is a problem it is due to local interpretation of the national arrangement. **Action is still ongoing through Landmarc and the NRA Regional Manager**

G227b: Discussion paper on NRA producing ammunition – *to be presented to the Council at its 14 April meeting* - John Bloomfield. **Action Continues.**

G227g: Working group for reducing bureaucracy experienced by clubs – Glynn Alger. GA reported that current discussion with ACPO, Home Office and James Brokenshire the Minister responsible have overtaken this action as the shooting associations try to negotiate a better position for license holders **Action Continues.**

There were no other matters arising.

### **G238 FINANCE (G224)**

Glynn Alger presented the Treasurer's report in his absence.

"Graham Gold and his staff continue to bring the financial records fully up to date and ensure that bills go out on time and are paid on time.

The cash position has improved with the inflow of membership subscriptions and the overdraft is now at a much lower level than previously was the case. Cash is still tight.

The MoD continue to book ranges at a higher level than in 2010 and contract negotiations continue for 2011 and going forward.

The budget has been approved by Council at a level which is intended to generate a surplus of around £200K in 2011 and you will be aware that this has in part been achieved by increases in pricing – which has in many areas remained static and fallen behind inflation.

The figures for the actual results for 2010, still being prepared, seem likely to show a very significant deficit. The audit is scheduled for the end of March and I wouldn't wish to pre-empt that process by going into more detail on those results at the moment."

There were no questions

### **G239 THE TREASURER (G233)**

The meeting was advised that, for professional reasons James Ragg had to retire from the position of Treasurer. The position had been advertised to the membership and five applicants were currently under consideration for interview by the end of March. The successful applicant would then be appointed.

A question was asked as to why the General Council no longer received Management Accounts as an appendix to the Council Minutes? The meeting was advised that since accurate accounts for 2010 were not available this impeded any ambition to supply Management Accounts for 2011. GA stated that as soon as the 2010 accounts have been resolved this will allow the Finance Department to routinely produce Management Accounts.

### **G240 CUMBRIA SHOOTING TRAGEDY (G225)**

GA reported he was due to have a meeting with the Minister James Brokenshire on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011 to particularly discuss:

- Youth Shooting and the age debate
- Home Office Approved Clubs to agree:
  1. A change to Home Office Approvals that allow clubs to hold all Section 1 Firearms (including Sec. 1 shotguns and long-barrelled pistols)
  2. That the FAC holder for a club does not have to be present on a range at all times members are shooting club firearms. The agreement with ACPO is that the club can nominate other members of the club to open and run ranges.
  3. Section 11.4 allowing the running of miniature rifle ranges will not be revoked. To avoid inappropriate use of the legislation the bodies able to authorise a miniature rifle range will be defined as the NSRA, Showman's Guild and the NRA.
- The proposal that GPs will be notified at the time of a renewal to give a view of a license holder's fitness.
- The proposal to increase license fees

### **G241 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (G228)**

GA presented to following report to the meeting in James Watson's absence.

"It was reported the last membership committee meeting had been postponed due to availability of the members so there were no new minutes to present to General Council.

Membership numbers continued to rise, currently standing at 6481, which included a net increase of 204 for 2010 year on year and in 2011, 85 new members had been recruited in the first month and a half. It was encouraging that in the current financial climate we are continuing to attract and retain members. It had been necessary to raise rates for individual and Club fees for 2011 having maintained them at low levels (and even reduced them in recent years). The increases this year are to help address the rise in costs in line with inflation over the years as well as the additional staff burden on the association due to the certification requirements. It should be noted that successful negotiations had been had with the MoD for the term of certification for Clubs to

be increased to four years in line with the NRA individual members which would be rolled out over the next year and so would see a reduced administration requirement on behalf of club officials.

The Membership Committee continues to review the services offered to members and how best to encourage more members to join. It was hoped those who are members of affiliated clubs, but not individual members of the Association, would see the good work being carried out by the NRA in representing their interests in the Parliamentary debate around licensing following the tragedy at Cumbria.

September marks the end of James Watson's six years as Chairman of the Membership Committee and as such, he is required to stand down from that position and also the position of Trustee, which goes with it. The Membership Committee will at their first meeting following this date, need to elect a new Chairman. There is potentially space for another member on the Committee so anyone who is interested in participating and can add their ideas, enthusiasm and energy should speak to the Secretary General."

The Minutes of the meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> September 2010 were received and adopted.

There were no questions.

#### **G242 SHOOTING COMMITTEE (G229)**

The Vice Chairman thanked Iain Robertson for his work as Chairman of the Shooting Committee and as Trustee.

The Meeting was advised that at the Shooting Committee meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011, John Bloomfield had been elected Chairman and would take his position as a Trustee. Iain Robertson had been elected Vice Chairman who, in an executive role, would continue to manage the affairs of the Shooting Committee, running meetings and deciding the agenda. He would also manage the day to day dealings with the NRA/NSC staff. He would also report to the General Council and answer questions on Shooting Committee matters.

The Minutes of the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> September 2010 were received and adopted.

There were no matters arising.

The meeting received a verbal report of the Shooting Committee meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

John Bloomfield expressed thanks to David Calvert for his work as Vice Chairman of the Shooting Committee and for managing the transition process whereby the new structure had been put in place.

#### **G243 NATIONAL SHOOTING CENTRE LTD (G230)**

The Minutes of the meetings of 15<sup>th</sup> September, 18<sup>th</sup> October and 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2010 were received.

Matters arising:

#### **CNC (N891, N892, N922, N923 N961)**

The meeting was advised that the Association was close to agreeing a new contract with CNC for an increase in their range usage for 2011. In the longer term negotiations were still on-going to agree a contract for the development of Cheylesmore Range and its use.

#### MoD use of Bisley Ranges (N893, N924, N960)

It was reported that the MoD use of Bisley Ranges was increasing due to increasing pressure on the MoD training estate. At the present time the NRA is still negotiating to try and secure a longer-term contract for the military use of the ranges.

#### Game Fair (N901, N926, N962)

It was reported that the Council had approved the Game and Country Fair to take place Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September to Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

#### HAC (N902, N927, N963)

The meeting was informed that the NRA was currently considering bidding with a partner for a long-term commercial training contract. As part of the contract the HAC would be used to accommodate both training and catering. A question was asked about when the building was due to be returned to the NRA. It was confirmed that if agreement was reached the building should come back to the NRA in August.

#### RFD Pro (N917, N951, N976)

It was reported that the work on the RFD Pro, the computerised armoury system had been completed and it would be 'going live' on the 28<sup>th</sup> February.

#### Electronic Targets (N916, N949, N977)

A question was asked as to why the electronic targets were not working. It was confirmed that the Health & Safety issues that had prevented the targets from being used had been remedied. However after they had been re-installed and commissioned they had been vandalised. They were currently undergoing repair.

It was reported that Matt Ensor had been asked at the Shooting Committee meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> January to produce a draft business plan for installation of reliable electronic targetry for the September meeting of the Committee, subject to his workload, in order that a proposal could be put to the Council.

#### Stickledown Trial (N975)

Iain Robertson disputed the Minute relating to this issue, in that appeared to blame him for the delay in moving the proposal forward.

It was agreed that GA would look into the matter and address with Iain and NSC.

#### *Post Meeting Note:*

*The Secretary General investigated the matter raised by Iain Robertson in regard to NSC minute N975, and recommended that an afternote clarifying the issue be inserted in the Minutes of the meeting of the NSC board of 6 December.*

#### Trafalgar Meeting (N968)

The question of included staffing costs in the financial breakdown of future competitions was discussed. The meeting was advised that at present there was no standard process in place for costing out competitions and that a consistent ruling was needed.

The point was made that it was part of the staff's job to run events. It was pointed out that some staff spent a considerable time in the administration and running of competitions, which took them away from their primary jobs, and this element required to be included when costing competitions.

A point was raised that in the past when the income from competitions, including the Imperial Meeting, had been calculated that accommodation and range office income generated solely from a particular event had not been included in the figures. The view was expressed that this kind of income generated should be included in the future.

#### RUAG (N894)

A query was raised on the escalation clause in the contract and the meeting was advised its function was to take account of fluctuations in exchange rates and increases in raw material costs to make sure any increase was applied correctly.

#### G244 THE COUNCIL (G231)

The Minutes of the meeting of the meetings held on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 14<sup>h</sup> October, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2010 were received and Written Resolutions T948 dated 15<sup>th</sup> September, T973 dated 27<sup>th</sup> October, T974 dated 22<sup>nd</sup> November, T992 dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2010 and T993 dated 24<sup>th</sup> January, T995 and T1013 dated 11<sup>th</sup> February were received.

Matters arising from the Minutes and questions.

#### Minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> August 2010 and Minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> October 2010

There were no matters arising.

#### Minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> December 2010

T979 (para 54) - A question was raised on the NSC's recommendation for the use of RPI during the course of rent reviews rather than using open market value. It was explained that this course had only been proposed when dealing with lower value rents to make the process cost effective. High value leases would still be dealt with using market value.

T988 (para 92) – A view was expressed that when the income from the Imperial Meeting, had been calculated in accounts, accommodation, range office activity, and other associated income generated had not been identified and included in the figures, which would alter the perception that the meeting ran at a loss. The meeting was informed that an Imperial Meeting review was on-going and was looking at the way competitions were costed.

T978 (para 15) – A question was asked regarding the stock take report where there had been a mention of a missing 60,000 rounds of RG as to whether it have been located. The meeting was advised that a full investigation had been undertaken resulting in the conclusion that there had been a bookkeeping error.

T988 (para 88) – A question was asked about the outcome of the Montana rifle incident. It was confirmed that Stephen Donaldson had been formally notified that he would not be facing any disciplinary action as a result of the incident. The meeting was also informed that the matter had been closed pending any approaches received from the US manufacturers. However, the type of Montana rifle involved in the incident remained banned from use at Bisley.

T979 (para 39) - It was asked what impact the Countryside and Game Fair would have on shooting on the ranges. It was reported that the particular weekend at the beginning of October had been selected, because it would have the minimum impact on shooting. It was reported that clubs had been actively canvassed to engage them in the event and to see if there was any negative feedback. To date there had only been one negative comment from an individual member and a number of the Clubs on Camp were actively involved in the event. Several members present at the meeting who represented various clubs said they had not been consulted or contacted for their views at all.

The meeting received a verbal report of the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011 Meeting

The meeting was advised that the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011 had been specifically called to agree the announced rises in membership, affiliation, rents and range hire prices for 2011. The General Council would receive a final version of the Minutes when they had been agreed. An explanatory note was being published in the Journal and on the web site.

Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2011 Meeting

The meeting was advised that the Draft Minutes were not yet available.

### **G245 ELECTION TO THE DISCIPLINARY BODY (G233)**

The Following were elected, on 18 November 2010, to the Disciplinary Body

Mr David Lacey      Elected as a Legal Member of the Discipline Committee  
30 Yes Votes  
4 No Votes  
1 Abstention

Mr Robert Sayer      Elected as a Legal Member of the Appeal Committee  
33 Yes Votes  
2 No Votes  
0 Abstentions

### **G246 GBTSF & BRITISH SHOOTING (G234)**

#### **GBTSE**

Glynn Alger reported that the GBTSF were currently seeking to appoint a Regional Development Manager for the South East and the Midlands, and Dave Froggett is currently filling the post of National Development Manager on an on-going basis.

He reported that the NRA staff are heavily involved in the project, funded by Sport England, for developing the sport in the regions and are looking at support for clubs in relation to funding stream, training and coaching standards across all shooting disciplines.

A Regional Development Manager for the North East was already in place and several projects were currently running in North Yorkshire.

#### **British Shooting**

The Board of British Shooting was undergoing a complete re-organisation to become a GB body making it appropriate to manage the funding for GB shooting and the Olympics. The bodies represented on the Board would be the NRA, NSRA, DTSGB and BICTSF plus the OPG. The new structure is due to be finalised at an EGM of the BS Board on the 16<sup>th</sup> March.

### **G247 BISLEY DEVELOPMENT (G213)**

GA stated that there had been long-term ambitions for Bisley to turn it into a world class facility. The major problem to achieving this ambition has been some of the more influential members at Bisley who wanted the facility to remain in the 1860's while making enough money just to get by.

It was pointed out that Bisley was a business worth nearly £8 million on paper that plans to make £200k annually in surplus. In reality the business should be making at least a million a year

ensuring that our heritage is maintained, our roads repaired our ranges modernised, while investing in our national responsibilities to our clubs around the UK.

To this end if it is commercially feasible the members are going to have to accept that shops, light industrial units, better class accommodation, serviced caravan sites and hotels will be built that attract “strange” people that do not shoot called “the public”. The public if they come will spend large amounts of money that will form part of a larger profit for the organisation that will assist the association to keep shooting costs down.

At the same time it was pointed out that commercially the Association will also be chasing the policing and military pound as part of this more expansive drive to be commercial. The benefit to the members will be that the NRA almost certainly will have to improve current ranges and build others to accommodate them as well as the increased income.

Further if there are exhibitions on site which for the most part will have no impact on the ranges members will have to accept the presence of the general public because they are putting money into their sport.

The days of aiming only to make £200k a year must end because if in any one year an incident occurs that affects our business we are almost certainly back in the red.

GA stated that he hoped that the members would give the Association some understanding as we moved forward, because to improve things we had to build and maintain facilities that inevitably would cause some disruption even though the aim was to keep everyone shooting.

The General Council voiced general approval for the commercialisation of the activities at Bisley in support of the sport.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The meeting closed at 4.30 pm.

### **Chairman**

### **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETINGS.**

Date	Time	Venue
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2011	2.00p.m.	Bisley Pavilion
Followed by the AGM	5.30p.m.	Bisley Pavilion
Friday (tba) September 2011	2.00p.m.	Bisley Pavilion